

VZCZCXYZ0006
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHC #0297 0841719
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 241714Z MAR 08
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 8839
INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 9076
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 6726
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 3351
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 0054
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHMFSS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHMCSSU/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 030297

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL KNNP MNUC AMGT AMED KN CH

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE FOR USG PERSONNEL IN THE

DPRK: MEDICAL EVACUATION INSURANCE

REF: STATE 7837

¶1. (U) This cable provides supplemental guidance for U.S. contractors traveling to and/or assuming temporary duty (TDY) in the DPRK for the purpose of implementing denuclearization measures pursuant to Six-Party and other related agreements (''Contractors''). This guidance supplements guidance provided in REFTEL.

¶2. (U) Effective April 15, 2008, all Contractors working on disablement activities in the DPRK are required to show proof of medevac insurance before initiating travel to the DPRK. MEDEX (www.medexassist.com), International SOS ([ISOS - www.internationalsos.com](http://www.internationalsos.com)), and AIG (American International Group - www.aig.com/emergency-evacuation-coverage) all claim to be able to service a medevac out of the DPRK. MEDEX and AIG are the most common medevac insurance carriers, but have not previously dispatched an air ambulance or managed a medevac from the DPRK. International SOS reports that it has successfully medically evacuated patients from North Korea. These policies typically offer coverage with a USD 100,000 ceiling, which should be adequate to cover evacuations to Beijing or Hong Kong.

¶3. (U) Medevac insurance information must be provided to EAP/K before a country clearance request for Contractors will be submitted. Embassy Beijing will not grant Contractors country clearance unless this information is included. Medevac insurance information must include full contact information and contract number/details. Contractors are encouraged to fax the pages of the contract including this information to EAP/K as soon as travel dates are determined. POC is Colleen Kelly (EAP/K, 202-647-0333, kellycp@state.gov, FAX: 202-647-7388).

¶4. (U) The above does not apply to U.S. Government direct-hire employees. It is the responsibility of the parent agency to pay for costs related to a medical evacuation. Persons who plan to travel to North Korea should be advised of the general lack of medical facilities. For decades, medical facilities in the DPRK have suffered from a lack of resources and electricity, as well as often outdated skills among the medical staff. Hospitals in Pyongyang can perform basic examinations and lifesaving measures but functioning x-ray facilities are not generally available. Persons requiring regular medication are encouraged to bring sufficient stocks of drugs for personal use since most drugs are impossible to obtain locally.

RICE